

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for converting code values between applications, the method comprising the steps of:
 - generating first data that associates a first field with a plurality of code conversion rules;
 - generating second data that, for each conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules, associates the conversion rule with criteria for applying the conversion rule, wherein said criteria is based on one or more other fields other than said first field;
 - receiving a first code for the first field and zero or more codes for the one or more other fields;
 - inspecting said first data and said second data to determine which particular code conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules should be applied based on:
 - the zero or more codes, and
 - the criteria associated with each conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules; and
 - converting said first code based on the particular code conversion rule that should be applied to convert said first code.
2. The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - storing third data that associates a second field with said plurality of code conversion rules;
 - receiving a second code for the second field and zero or more other codes for the one or more other fields; and

6 converting said second code based on a particular code conversion rule of said
7 plurality of code conversion rules that should be applied to convert said
8 second code.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting said first code further includes
2 converting said first code into a plurality of one or more other codes.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein:
2 the method further includes the step of establishing a plurality of code conversion
3 categories associated with multiple code conversion rules, wherein said
4 plurality of code conversion categories includes a particular code conversion
5 category that is associated with said plurality of code conversion rules;
6 said first data associates said first field with said plurality of code conversion rules by
7 associating said particular code conversion category with said first field; and
8 said third data associates said second field with said plurality of code conversion rules
9 by associating said particular code conversion category with said second field.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, further including the step of receiving user input that
2 specifies, for a particular conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules,
3 the one or more other fields to associate with said criteria.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the criteria associated with each conversion rule of
2 said plurality of code conversion rules specifies a value for a field of said one or more
3 other fields.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of determining which particular code
2 conversion rule should be applied further includes determining, for a given

conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules, whether a particular value specified by the criteria associated with the given conversion rule matches a respective code from said zero or more codes.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of determining which code conversion rule should be applied further includes determining which conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules specifies the greatest of number of values matched by a respective code from said zero or more other codes.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein each code conversion rule specifies an internal code and at least one external code.

10. A method for converting codes between applications, the method comprising the steps of:
establishing a plurality of code conversion categories;
storing first data that associates each code conversion category of said plurality of code conversion categories with:
one or more conversion rules, and
a plurality of fields defined by an application;
wherein said plurality of code conversion categories includes a particular code conversion category that is associated with at least a first field and a second field;
receiving a first code associated with said first field;
inspecting said first data to determine that the first field has been associated with said particular code conversion category from said plurality of code conversion categories;

in response to determining that the first field has been associated with said particular
code conversion category, then:
determining which particular code conversion rule associated with said
particular code conversion category should be applied to the first code,
and
converting said first code into one or more external codes based on the
particular code conversion rule that should be applied to the first code;
receiving a second code associated with said second field;
inspecting said first data to determine that the second field has been associated with
the particular code conversion category; and
in response to determining that the second field has been associated with the
particular code conversion category, then:
determining which particular code conversion rule associated with said
particular code conversion category should be applied to the second
code, and
converting said second code into another code based on the particular code
conversion rule that should be applied to the second code.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of converting said first code further includes converting said first code into a plurality of one or more other codes.
12. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for converting code values between applications, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5 generating first data that associates a first field with a plurality of code conversion
6 rules;
7 generating second data that, for each conversion rule of said plurality of code
8 conversion rules, associates the conversion rule with criteria for applying the
9 conversion rule, wherein said criteria is based on one or more other fields
10 other than said first field;
11 receiving a first code for the first field and zero or more codes for the one or more
12 other fields;
13 inspecting said first data and said second data to determine which particular code
14 conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules should be applied
15 based on:
16 the zero or more codes, and
17 the criteria associated with each conversion rule of said plurality of code
18 conversion rules; and
19 converting said first code based on the particular code conversion rule that should be
20 applied to convert said first code.

- 1 13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, further including instructions for
2 performing the steps of:
3 storing third data that associates a second field with said plurality of code conversion
4 rules;
5 receiving a second code for the second field and zero or more other codes for the one
6 or more other fields; and
7 converting said second code based on a particular code conversion rule of said
8 plurality of code conversion rules that should be applied to convert said
9 second code.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the step of converting said first
2 code further includes converting said first code into a plurality of one or more other
3 codes.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein:
2 the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for performing the step
3 of establishing a plurality of code conversion categories associated with
4 multiple code conversion rules, wherein said plurality of code conversion
5 categories includes a particular code conversion category that is associated
6 with said plurality of code conversion rules;
7 said first data associates said first field with said plurality of code conversion rules by
8 associating said particular code conversion category with said first field; and
9 said third data associates said second field with said plurality of code conversion rules
10 by associating said particular code conversion category with said second field.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, further including instructions for
2 performing the step of receiving user input that specifies, for a particular conversion
3 rule of said plurality of code conversion rules, the one or more other fields to
4 associate with said criteria.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the criteria associated with each
2 conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules specifies a value for a field
3 of said one or more other fields.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein the step of determining which
2 particular code conversion rule should be applied further includes determining, for a
3 given conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules, whether a particular

value specified by the criteria associated with the given conversion rule matches a respective code from said zero or more codes.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein the step of determining which code conversion rule should be applied further includes determining which conversion rule of said plurality of code conversion rules specifies the greatest of number of values matched by a respective code from said zero or more other codes.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein each code conversion rule specifies an internal code and at least one external code.

21. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for converting code values between applications, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

- establishing a plurality of code conversion categories;
- storing first data that associates each code conversion category of said plurality of code conversion categories with:
 - one or more conversion rules, and
 - a plurality of fields defined by an application;

wherein said plurality of code conversion categories includes a particular code conversion category that is associated with at least a first field and a second field;

- receiving a first code associated with said first field;
- inspecting said first data to determine that the first field has been associated with said particular code conversion category from said plurality of code conversion categories;

in response to determining that the first field has been associated with said particular
code conversion category, then:
determining which particular code conversion rule associated with said
particular code conversion category should be applied to the first code,
and
converting said first code into one or more external codes based on the
particular code conversion rule that should be applied to the first code;
receiving a second code associated with said second field;
inspecting said first data to determine that the second field has been associated with
the particular code conversion category; and
in response to determining that the second field has been associated with the
particular code conversion category, then:
determining which particular code conversion rule associated with said
particular code conversion category should be applied to the second
code, and
converting said second code into another code based on the particular code
conversion rule that should be applied to the second code.

22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the step of converting said first
code further includes converting said first code into a plurality of one or more other
codes.